

# THE SCROLL

NOVEMBER 6, 2015

O'GORMAN HIGH SCHOOL | SIOUX FALLS, SOUTH DAKOTA

VOLUME 52, ISSUE 2



SUBMITTED PHOTO

German exchange students pose for a picture at Sioux Falls Regional Airport. German students and teachers joined O'Gorman for two weeks as part of the German American Partnership Program.

## German students join O'Gorman as part of exchange program

Kelsey Butler  
Staff Writer

GAPP (German American Partnership Program) welcomes 16 German students and teachers from Dillenburg, Germany to O'Gorman. From Oct. 4-7, the exchange students were discovering Washington, D.C. They arrived in Sioux Falls on Oct. 9 and left Oct. 25.

"We were all very nervous to be leaving our families for such a long time, but also very excited to be in America," said Kathleen Nickel, one of the German students.

They must write essays and

be interviewed in their foreign language, English. GAPP has been around since the 2011-2012 year.

"It is a lot of fun to see the students explore, learn from each other, laugh together and be challenged to explain their values, beliefs, lifestyle and habits and reflect on their culture," said Frau Kristin Kuchenbecker, "It reminds me of when I first came to the U.S. and did not know my way around."

Each student and teacher must live with an O'Gorman host family. Many of the hosts are enjoying showing them American ways.

"It was fun to take them to B-dubs on wing Wednesday," said Sam Billion. "It was amazing seeing their faces lighting up when they ate something I love."

Although there are so many differences, the students still enjoy their time here. "My favorite part of being in America is that everyone is so nice and lovely and talks to you like you've known each other for years," said Lelaina Schmidt, another German student.

Frau Kuchenbecker plans to take a group of O'Gorman students to Dillenburg in June of 2016.

## School safety in spotlight for many school districts as Harrisburg faces gunman

Connor Bell  
Assistant Editor

School shootings are no longer something that doesn't happen here. With recent school shootings across the United States from Sandy Hook Elementary School to Umpqua Community College in Roseburg, Oregon, they have finally hit home when Harrisburg High School experienced a school shooting on Sept. 30.

A student brought a firearm into the high school and shot Principal Kevin Lein. Lein sustained a gunshot wound to the arm and is making a full recovery. When the student walked in on that Wednesday morning he had walked into the principal's office and had gotten into an argument when he pulled out his firearm and shot the principal.

It could have been fatal if not for Assistant Principal Ryan Rollinger and Activities Director Joey Struwe tackling the gunman and holding him on the ground until the police had arrived.

"We are prepared," said O'Gorman School Resource Officer Todd Runyan. The school resource officers receive more training than other officers. They are specially equipped with the tools, knowledge and resources to handle situations should they

ever happen in a school.

A school can never prevent such a terrible tragedy, but O'Gorman Assistant Principal Joan Mahoney thinks that the key is good student-faculty relations.

"We go out of our way to build the best possible relations with our students," said Mahoney.

The school shooting at Harrisburg High School shocked faculty, parents and especially students, including senior Sophia Pfeifle.

Pfeifle has a younger sister who attends Harrisburg middle school.

"They didn't say where in Harrisburg. There were just armed guards outside of the middle school at lunch," said Pfeifle. "It was terrifying to not know." Later, Pfeifle learned her sister was safe.

As school shootings continue across the United States - and move closer to home - schools continue to take precautions. O'Gorman has installed a secure entry system to the front door, so all doors are locked during the school day.

Staff and students also take part in lockdown drills during the school year to help ensure that O'Gorman is ready in case of an intruder.

## Students continue to score well on ACT while maintaining balance of extra curriculars, work, school

Taylor Houston  
Staff Writer

O'Gorman has always had exceptionally high ACT scores, and they just keep getting higher. Not only is O'Gorman ahead of the Sioux Falls Public Schools, but it is also ahead of the entire state of South Dakota.

"Our curriculum is the main reason our students do so well," said assistant principal Joan Mahoney.

O'Gorman provides a variety of classes to assist students in a structured classroom setting for reviewing.

"We have a teacher teach the subject they are specialized in, they have seen the test and go over concepts with students that they believe are beneficial," said

Mahoney.

"We place demands on students to prepare them better for the ACT and college," said Mahoney. The help and one on one time students can get with teachers is why O'Gorman does so well on the tests.

So what makes O'Gorman students want to achieve so highly?

"The teachers push the student to the best of their ability. It makes them think for themselves," said principal Kyle Gross.

More than half of the students are involved in extracurricular activities, too.

"We not only love to see students excel on the field or stage but on their report cards as well," said activities director Steve Kue-ter.

## As mourning of junior continues, students, teachers share memories

Shreya Chandran  
Melissa Sierra

As students and teachers mourn the loss of junior Jay Lavender, who died tragically on Oct. 1, many have taken to remembering Jay and the memories he left.

Mrs. Katie Kerkvliet, a faculty member in the Academic Services, worked closely with Jay.

"My best memory of Jay was when he showed up to school this year all smiles wearing his Burger King uniform for homecoming spirit week," said Kerkvliet. "He was so proud to tell us about where he worked."

This excitement followed Jay throughout his schooldays, influencing many of his peers. His friends remember Jay for his compassion and selflessness in



Jay Lavender

regards to others.

"He was always caring about others," said junior Jayden Duscher.

Jay's passing has had far reaching influence, already impacting how faculty and students view their peers.

"I learned from Jay that many people are fighting their own

battle on the inside, regardless of how we might think they are on the outside," said Kerkvliet.

Despite the struggles in Jay's life, he remained optimistic.

"He never let anyone bring him down, and I wish I could do that," said junior Noah Gilbert.

Although a tremendous loss, Jay's death has begun to bring positive encouragement for both teachers and students.

"I encourage the students at O'Gorman to continue reaching out to include those who may need a little extra support," said Kerkvliet.

Constantly drawing pictures on his assignments, which often included a message that said, "Always Believe, Always Smile," Jay continues to be a reminder of the happiness which can be found in life.



What do you think about the Pope’s visit to the United States?



Hannah Berens  
“I thought it was amazing to even be in the same country as him!”



Jason Connelly  
“I think it’s great. It’s a great faith booster for American Catholics.”



Meghan Mieras  
“It’s exciting that the Pope was on our country’s soil. It’s the first time that I remember it happening in my lifetime and he was very inspiring and made a huge impact in our society while he was here.”



Lucas Anderson  
“I’m really glad that the Pope came to the states because it’s a great opportunity for us to get some genuine Catholic exposure. Having him speak about the Catholic faith will help spread what our faith is all about.”



Mrs. Kramer  
“The Pope’s visit inspired pride in being Catholic; he strengthened our Catholic identity here in the U.S. SOLIDARITY!”



Luke Humke  
“I feel what the Pope is doing with focusing on the children and the younger generation is a great idea. By focusing on the younger generation, it helps the Catholic Church in the future and helps our community grow.”



Gabby Sudenga  
“I felt proud to be a part of the Catholic Church when the Pope came to America. He was a great example in showing us how to live out our faith in everyday life.”



Dylan Kallhoff  
“You always hear about the Pope being all over the world. It was cool to know that he has been in our country and openly welcomed!”



Madeleine Lauret  
“When I first found out that Pope Francis was coming to visit America, I was beyond excited. Many people traveled here in search of a better life for themselves and their loved ones. Pope Francis listened to their stories and tried his best to respond to their situation. I believe that the Pope left a great impact on America.”



Mr. Baustian  
“I would say that it is always amazing when the Holy Father visits the USA. I was very inspired to see how even though the people were there to see him, he only spoke of Jesus, and how we need to come to him for grace and mercy.”

Knight Scroll Staff

Editor-in-Chief  
Shreya Chandran

Assistant Editors  
Melissa Sierra  
Connor Bell

Staff Writers  
Joe Angerhofer  
Nyanwel Arop  
Nicolette Boyum  
Kelsey Butler  
Rebecca Clark  
Carter Edman  
Ethan French  
Taylor Houston

Adviser  
Jason A. Van Engen

Contact  
Email:  
jvanengen@sfcss.org

Address:  
Knight Scroll  
Sioux Falls Catholic Schools  
3201 S. Kiwanis Ave.  
Sioux Falls, SD 57105

Letters to the Editor  
All letters should be short and concise. The writer should include a name and contact information. All letters are subject to editing for grammar, conventions and length.

Editorial Policy  
All editorials are the sole opinion of the writer and do not necessarily represent the beliefs of the O’Gorman faculty, administration or the Knight Scroll.

Have an opinion?

We want to hear it.

Write a letter  
to the editor.



## Oral interp kicks off season with veteran interpers

Nicolete Boyum  
Staff Writer

The oral interp team is off to a great start at the beginning of the 2015 season. They recently took first place in sweeps at the Stars and Stripes Spectacular at Lincoln High School.

This year the team is focusing on keeping their streak alive. Junior interper James Nelson is hoping this year will go well.

"We have a great group of people, a few coming back from nationals, so I think this season will be a good one," said Nelson.

Not only are varsity interpers doing well but so are the novice oral interpers. Freshman Jennifer Kroon-Nel-

son feels as though they have improved substantially since the beginning of the season.

"Varsity was great at coaching us at the team meets and Fester has helped us start our year out well," said Kroon-Nelson.

Ms. Teresa Fester has worked at O'Gorman High School for 16 years now and has seen her fair share of oral interp teams.

"Each year is different in oral interp - sometimes your success is based on just pure talent," says Fester. "Other years you have luck. It is hard to predict the outcome as much of the activity just depends on what else is out there."

At the end of this season, several

stand-out interpers are leaving such as Sean Miles, Emmy Bear, Shreya Chandran and Kelly Maxwell, but Fester has confidence in her younger interpers.

"Every year we are blessed with key people but there always seems to be more ready to step up," said Fester.

While oral interpers are working hard for their competitions, they are also looking to give back to the community. "We are excited to again be doing our Thanksgiving break service project," said Fester. "We will make popcorn treat bags and deliver to all the waiting rooms in the hospitals."

The next oral interp competition is Nov. 6 at Washington High School.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Oral interp team members pose with their trophies after winning sweepstakes at Lincoln High School.

## Debate leans on young talent

Shreya Chandran  
Editor-in-Chief

As the season starts off, the debate team is hard at work researching topics and building cases.

The team has shifted from seasoned debaters to a much younger group.

"This will be a rebuilding year for O'Gorman debate. We have a lot of very talented kids but for the most part, the team is very young and has limited experience," said coach Bob Stevens.

"I am constantly re-assuring the team that we will likely take our lumps in some of the early tournaments but those experiences will get us ready for the major tournaments in January, the national qualifier in February and state debate in March."

Though the team lost mul-

multiple members to graduation, Stevens is not worried.

"I think that our youth and inexperience may actually work to our advantage. Everyone knows that we graduated a very talented senior class. No one expects O'Gorman to be much of a factor this year so we can fly under the radar and perhaps surprise some people."

One strength Stevens identified is the extemporaneous speaking category.

"When I started at O'Gorman, if someone was entered in extemp, it was mostly kicking and screaming and resisting all the way. It started last year and continues on this year but our debaters actually like extemp," said Stevens.

"They ask the coaches if they can do practice speeches and we

already have more information in our extemp files than we had at the end of last year. That will pay off at tournaments."

In addition to this, two students that qualified last year, junior Alex King and senior Zach Shaw, are back this year to compete.

"I think most importantly I've learned how to accept defeat and understand opposing viewpoints," said Shaw.

As team captain, Shaw is going to college next year, and debate has really prepared him for that next stage.

"I've learned a lot about how to support my own personal beliefs which I'm sure will be challenged at some point. Also I've learned how to be an independent student and find research to support my evidence."

## Townsend journeys to Nashville to perform in national choir

Shreya Chandran  
Editor-in-Chief

Senior Rachel Townsend has gotten the honor of going to Nashville, Tenn. to perform in the NAFME ACDA honor choir.

In order to be a part of this choir, she needed to perform several pieces of music.

"I auditioned through my voice teacher, Donna Hey. I sang a solo in Latin, a scale, and 'O'Beautiful,'" said Townsend.

People all over the country auditioned to be a part of the national recognized honor choir.

"I'm a little nervous because I'm not really the best at meeting new people," said Townsend.

Townsend did not expect to make it into the elite choir.

"I was so shocked and surprised. I was pumped," said



Rachel Townsend

Townsend.

Townsend was the only choir member to participate in the honor choir this year.

"I am so excited for her because this really is a once in a lifetime opportunity," said Townsend's choir teacher Rachel Kramer.

The trip took place Oct. 23-28.

## Quiz bowl team touts youth as season begins

Rebecca Clark  
Staff Writer

This year, the O'Gorman quiz bowl squad has two teams of four students made up of mostly freshmen.

Quiz bowl tests trivia skills on many different categories such as literature, science, history and fine arts.

"Quiz Bowl is like a Trivial Pursuit game with a team and with a wide variety of questions on different topics," said freshman quiz bowler Kathryn Gerwer.

Quiz bowlers have the opportunity to compete against other schools at different tournaments. The first quiz bowl tournament

O'Gorman lost, but they are keeping their hopes up.

"We were really close to beating the homeschool team last competition, and I hope we can win this (next) time," said quiz bowler Olivia Tunge.

"The first competition of the season was in Brookings," said quiz bowl instructor Mrs. Williamson. "We took two teams. One team placed seventh and the other team placed 11th out of 24 teams. They really did quite well especially considering over half of the kids in quiz bowl are freshmen."

Quiz bowlers are excited about this season.

"I'm excited for all the competitions, especially the one at

O'Gorman," said Tunge. "I'm most excited for our competition on Monday, Oct. 26 here at O'Gorman," said Williamson.

The competition at O'Gorman is important. "It is our second time the we have ever hosted it at O'Gorman, so it is kind of an exciting one," said Williamson.

"People should join because everyone has an interest they know about even if it is hunting, knowing a lot about books, or something else and after you answer a question right it just makes you feel good," Gerwer said.

Students who are interested and would like to join, practices are Wednesday after school in Mrs. Williamson's room.



REBECCA CLARK / KNIGHT SCROLL

Quiz bowl team members participate in a practice round. O'Gorman High School hosted a quiz bowl competition on Monday, October 26.



## Golfers win state tourney under direction of new coach

Carter Edman  
Staff Writer

The O’Gorman boys golf team had a very successful run in the state tournament this year ending with a state title. The Knights went undefeated in all city, metro and state competition on their way to the title.

“This was a great year for the team. We won all of our matches, including city, metro and state,” said junior Alex King. “We had a lot of guys come through and shoot low scores, and Tom Jansa proved to be a great replacement for Griz. I felt that we rose to the occasion and displayed our true potential.”

Many underclassmen stepped up and shot very low scores to help the team with its success. “Under the guidance of Tom Jansa, and solid play from those returning, there is no limit as to what can be accomplished,” said King.

“Our seniors will certainly be missed, but we will be returning three sophomores who played in the top 15 at State and have several other good players to fill the other spots,” said Jansa. “They are all determined to work hard over the next year to improve and are excited at the opportunity to defend their title.”

“I knew that we had the potential to contend for the state championship, and as we continued to have success with each event the boys did a tremendous job of staying in the present and taking things one shot, one hole, one round at a time,” said Jansa.

The Knights will look to capture another title next year.

# Lady Knights claim state title

Carter Edman  
Staff Writer

The O’Gorman Lady Knights soccer team had a very successful run this year boasting a record of 10-0-2. The Lady Knights were led by three seniors in Molly Doetzel, Alyssa Weidler and Kylee Abraham. The Lady Knights made a great run in the state tournament which ended in a 4-1 win over Rapid City Central for the title.

The Lady Knights have grown a lot as a team this year. “We returned a very similar team from last year, but this year we all seemed to grow even closer,” said senior Molly Doetzel. “I think it helped our game as we knew each other’s strengths and weaknesses. This season was one of the most fun seasons I’ve ever had because the girls were so much fun to be around.”

Many underclassmen stepped up to the plate and played great to help the team reclaim a state title once again. This year’s seniors will be missed but there are already high hopes for next season. “The junior class has many great leaders willing to step up,” said

Doetzel.

The Lady Knights put in many long hours and hard work to help them have the outcome they did. “I thought our team started and ended the season very strong with only a few rough games along the way. I was very proud of the hard work everyone put in to get better each week,” said Doetzel.

The competition this year was also very tough. The Knights had a long hard fought battle with the Lincoln Patriots in the semi-final game which ended up in a Knights win in a shootout. “We competed at our highest level most nights. If we didn’t, we knew we could get beat,” said head coach Ryan Beier.

The Knights are looking forward to next year and hoping to have the same outcome as this year. “We have a ton of players back who have experience. We also look forward to hopefully playing in the state tourney hosted here at OG,” said Beier.

The Lady Knights are hoping to come out on top for a second straight year next year with a lot of underclassman talent and a large junior class with lots of experience.



KNIGHT LEGEND

Junior Theresa Pujado pushes the ball downfield against a Watertown defender. The Lady Knights won the 2015 state title.

## Lady Knights take second place in state tennis

Ethan French  
Joe Angerhofer

The girls tennis team has had an exceptional run, winning the past eight state tournaments. This year they continued the success but fell just short of their end goal. The team’s second place finish ended the streak just short of a nine-peat.

“The mood was that we had won after the first few flights,” said head coach Donald Barnes. Barnes said that at the beginning of the meet O’Gorman took a big head start. Both coaches and athletes thought they had done it again.

O’Gorman lost a total of nine players from last season. Starting off this season the team had a goal of capturing another state title. With the second place finish, they showed off their depth even

after losing much of their team.

The team score is affected by each flight of individual matches and doubles matches. The top six players compete to win their own individual seed or flight.

“The top three flights are the most important. You score the most points in the first singles and doubles match,” said O’Gorman girls tennis member Melissa Sierra.

The first, second and third flights were all won by members of the O’Gorman team. They also won the first flight of doubles. The only strain in their point total came from a couple of lower placings.

Singles flight champions were Danielle Sebata, Samantha Czarnecki and Melissa Sierra. Sebata and Czarnecki also collected the title for the first doubles flight.



KNIGHT LEGEND

Junior Samantha Czarnecki prepares to serve. The Lady Knights took second place at this year’s state tennis tournament held in Sioux Falls. The Lady Knights had won the previous eight titles.

# Volleyball team looks forward to post-season play

## Team takes part in campaign to raise money for breast cancer patients

Connor Bell  
Assistant Editor

With the regular season coming to a close the Lady Knights look to the state tournament as an opportunity to show that they are still the team to beat.

With the Lady Knights winning the state title the last two years in a row the Lady Knights are eager to keep the streak alive.

While winning the state championship is important the Lady Knights and their fans get an opportunity to help raise money for breast cancer patients with the Think Pink campaign.

The Think Pink campaign is a chance for players, students, faculty and parents to show their support for breast cancer patients by buying t-shirts with all of the proceeds going into a fund

to help breast cancer victims.

The Lady Knights have been taking part in this campaign for three years now.

“It is a great way to incorporate the fans, faculty and the families to raise money for such a noble cause,” said senior Cassidy Skuza.

The team also hands out small pink volleyballs autographed by the players in an effort to increase

attendance and continue to give back to the fans.

The Lady Knights currently sit atop class AA district 1 with a record of 18-11.

“While the state championship is important it is also important to help people going through the struggle of fighting breast cancer. So the fact that we as a school community can even pitch in a little is a huge deal,” said se-

nior Grace Wallin.

With some key players leaving last year the team isn’t phased.

“We lost some good players last year but, we have had plenty of players step up to the challenge this year and are doing phenomenal,” said senior Alex Anderson.

The state tournament will be held Nov. 19-21 in Sioux Falls.



# Kueter takes wins record; Knights coast into playoffs

Ethan French  
Staff Writer

The record breaking 285th win for head football coach Steve Kueter came on October 9 against Rapid City Stevens. It took 34 years to reach this milestone. Kueter received help from countless staff members and the play from his athletes.

Kueter started his coaching career in Webster, S.D. where in his first year his team finished with a total of four wins. He then moved on to O'Gorman, where he would build an outstanding program.

Rick Lynch has been on the staff for all of his wins at O'Gorman. Kueter is thankful for all the help that he has received on his journey. "I have had a lot of help over the years. It is hard to single anyone out," said Kueter.

Players are a big part of winning and this season they had the



KNIGHT LEGEND

Coach Steve Kueter stands with the game ball after notching his 285th win.

honor of vaulting Kueter's wins into the record book. "We really wanted to win him these games because of how much it means to him," said senior Antonio Casillo.

Along with Kueter's record, the Knights have begun playoff action. O'Gorman has high expectations. "We have got our mojo back over these last couple

games and those teams we lost to early in the season don't know what is coming for them," said senior Billy Daniel.

The Knights finished up their season with a 34-7 victory over the Lincoln Patriots. This was a statement win for O'Gorman heading into the playoffs, as Lincoln had previously defeated top ranked Washington.

Overall, it was a chaotic finish for Sioux Falls schools as no team went undefeated against city opponents. Roosevelt had beaten both O'Gorman and Lincoln but dropped the regular season finale to Washington.

If O'Gorman wants to take home a state title they need to adjust to injuries. Boston Bauer recently returned from an injury and has added depth, according to Kueter.

This senior heavy group is eager to show the state what it can do.

## Knights fall short of state; team hopes to see progress continue into next season

Joe Angerhofer  
Staff Writer

The boys soccer team finished 4-5-3 and fell just short of a state tournament appearance.

"We lost a lot of starters when seniors left," said senior Cedric Kirschman. "So we started off being ranked pretty low. But, we came out on the first game and beat the number one team."

Four freshmen were started this season, which was something that Kirschman hadn't seen before.

"I was really proud of the young players. They did their jobs and stepped up for the high pressure situations," said Kirschman.

Kirschman was proud of the team. "When I got suspended for kicking a kid in the head, the team rallied together and didn't give in when it would have been

easiest.

"The new head coach, Brice Holiday, was the perfect fit for the team. He will help the team grow," said Kirschman.

Holiday takes over for Mike Grossman, who coached the Knights to a state championship in 2009.

"I like the new coach. He is invested in teaching the team and getting better," said freshman starter Andrew Pujado.

"The team will only lose two starters so that will leave nine bodies coming back with experience," said Kirschman. The soccer team has a good future ahead of it with the new leadership.

The last three games of the season resulted in one loss against Sioux Falls Christian (0-1), one draw with Brookings (0-0), and a win against rival Sioux Falls Washington (1-0).

# AUGUSTANA UNIVERSITY



**START YOUR FREE APPLICATION AT [AUGIE.EDU/APPLY](http://AUGIE.EDU/APPLY)**

**UPCOMING VISIT DAYS**

**November 6**

**Explore Augustana**

**November 20**

**Behind the Scenes**

**December 4**

**Performing Arts**

TO REGISTER FOR ONE OF THESE SPECIAL VISIT PROGRAMS OR TO SCHEDULE AN INDIVIDUAL VISIT  
GO TO [AUGIE.EDU/ADMISSION](http://AUGIE.EDU/ADMISSION), [AUGIE.EDU/MYVISIT](http://AUGIE.EDU/MYVISIT), OR CALL 605.274.5516/800.727.2844.



# Marching band finishes season on high note

Ethan French  
Joe Angerhofer

Director Ben Koch and the marching band are wrapping up their season and finalizing plans for their trip to New York this May.

"Band is more than just music and marching. It is also a good place to meet new people," said Nathan Angerhofer, a freshman in the band.

Angerhofer explained that band gave him the opportunity to easily meet students in the upper grades.

In May the band will be traveling to New York. Angerhofer said he can't wait to travel with the friends he made in band.

Koch has seen substantial improvement from the band throughout this year, and that their last few performances have shown their progress.

When heading into a performance Koch says that they try to hit on a "few targets week to week", whether that is visual and fine tuning their formation, or musicality and trying to be louder at shows.

According to Koch they have improved their sound output and impact, which by the end of the year was the group's strength. Participation from everyone seems to create the loudest sound.

"When you get a comment from a judge saying, 'That's the biggest sound of any band I've heard today,' you know you're on the right track with everybody, top to bottom," said Koch.

"New York is a great place to experience the arts up close and personal, so we're excited to travel there," said Koch about the opportunity.

Koch explained that the band trips are on a four year rotation so they don't happen that often.



KNIGHT LEGEND

Top: Marching band members perform during halftime of the homecoming football game.

Right: Band members march during the pregame festivities at Dakota Bowl.

Far Right: Freshman Ben Breske marches during the halftime show at the homecoming football game.



KNIGHT LEGEND



KNIGHT LEGEND

# British pop group 'shines' in debut album release

Melissa Sierra  
Assistant Editor

The British pop trio Years and Years have just released their debut album, *Communion*, in light of a recent *BBC Sound of Award*. The group's signature pop-synth dance style has garnered a modest following in both the United Kingdom and the United States, and spawned hit singles "King", "Real", and "Desire".

Frontman Olly Alexander, former *Skins* actor turned singer-songwriter, sings of heartbreak

and happiness. *Communion* takes on a much less upbeat tone than previous singles. With lyrics that speak of unrequited love, Alexander's fragile vocals take center stage in the album's ballad "Without".

One of few more positive songs, single "Shine" describes a romance which inspires Alexander to 'shine' with creativity. Following a similar theme of intense relationships, "Worship" layers lyrics of longing and dependence on top of syncopated rhythms

and bouncy synthetic xylophone beats.

The most representative of the trio's solemn sound is single "Eyes Shut". Alexander's airy voice hovers above light piano chords to outline a tale of heartbreak and hidden pain.

Years and Years' style brings up reminders of similar electric-pop style bands, specifically MGMT with popular singles such as "Electric Feel". This pop theme is what has allowed the group to snag a spot as fellow Brit

Sam Smith's opening act.

Although it is difficult to find fault in Years and Years' debut album, unless they are able to introduce mix into their future endeavors they may not continue to gain popularity. Many of their songs run together into one long soothing series, making it hard to distinguish one song from the next.

However, the dance feel and catchiness that runs through their music will keep them relevant for some time.



PRESS PHOTO

British pop trio Years and Years recently released their debut album, *Communion*.



What is your favorite Thanksgiving memory?



"I was eating a bun, choked, and puked in front of my whole family."  
- Alexis Masloski



"Hanging out with my family."  
- Korbin Clement



"My brother fell into a snow bank."  
- Cassie Schoenhard



"I don't know. I was sleeping the whole time."  
- Cole Edwards



"Eating pumpkin cheesecake."  
- Mrs. Skar

Top Ten Thanksgiving Break Activities

- 1. Food
- 2. Family
- 3. Napping
- 4. Pumpkin Pie
- 5. Sweaters
- 6. Leftover Turkey
- 7. Football Games
- 8. Black Friday
- 9. No School
- 10. Food

Students: Don't focus solely on ACT scores

ACT only one part of admissions process

Melissa Sierra  
Assistant Editor

This time of year all that seems to be on anyone's mind are ACT scores. Whether it's the prep class, sending scores to colleges, or the bar graphs that line the walls of O'Gorman, the ACT is everywhere. But why do high schoolers put so much faith in a test?

Many critics suggest that the ACT redesign its test because it provides very little predictive power regarding college performance. This creates a problem, as the sole purpose of the ACT is to determine future college preparedness. Both the reading and science sections receive the brunt of this criticism.

Long passages of reading characterize these sections. As the ACT is a timed test, the passages are designed to press students on time. Most prep-books suggest students skip passages entirely and instead answer questions by skimming passages for answers.

Arguably a good testing strategy, this method directly contradicts how students have been taught and will be taught to learn in college classes. In college, students who simply skim passages or assigned readings will likely



not be successful.

Many also criticize the 'coachability' of the test. Students study for exorbitant amounts of time using very specific strategies to gain the best score. A multi-million dollar business has been spawned from the ACT. Entire classes, books, and websites have been developed to teach students these coveted strategies.

Although the ACT has numerous flaws, it is very difficult to simply eradicate standardized testing all together. Colleges need something to gauge academic ability, standardized across the entire United States.

High schools across the nation have very different curricula, competitiveness, and course offerings making it difficult for colleges to get a glimpse of potential college success.

Although for the most part, GPA can be a fairly accurate indicator of academic success within a school, a 3.5 at a school in Florida may mean something very different to a 3.5 at a prep-school in California.

Perhaps the most detrimental flaw of the ACT is its impact on students. When so much importance is placed on college and future success, it is all too easy for students to base personal worth on one of the few tangible indicators of overall success.

Students can begin to make ACT testing a weekend hobby, constantly hoping to up their score.

The ACT does have importance to the college admissions process and should be taken seriously. However, students need to remember that standardized test scores are only one aspect to present to future admissions counselors.

Extracurriculars, personal statements, and recommendations create a more holistic view of students as individuals, an approach many universities are beginning to adopt. ACT scores will not make or break student happiness, but obsessing over them will.





SOUTH DAKOTA  
STATE UNIVERSITY

[sdstate.edu](http://sdstate.edu)

Anna Latza '18  
Major: Pre-Optometry

Ready to discover.

# Visit SDSU.

***Friday Jackrabbit Previews***

*November 13, 20 / December 4*

***Daily Visits Monday-Friday***

*between 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m.*

***For more info or to register:***

***(800) 952-3541 • [sdstate.edu/visit](http://sdstate.edu/visit)***